

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MOSCOW 05783 251348Z

43

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FOR COMMERCE/BEWT/TDAD--PLANAGAN

E.O. 11652 N/A

TAGS: EEWT, UR

SUBJ: PROPOSED KAISER ALUMINUM PROJECT IN USSR

REF: MOSCOW 2778

1. PLEASE PASS FOLLOWING TO E. ALLEN HOLBROOK, PRESIDENT OF
KAISER TRADING:

A. AT RECEPTION APRIL 24 COMOFF ASKED S.V. TSUKANOV, DEPTTY CHIEF,
MAIN ADMINISTRATION FOR COMPENSATION PROJECTS AND IMPORTATION OF
MACHINERY AND EQUIPMENT FROM CAPITALISTS COUNTRIES, MINISTRY OF
FOREIGN TRADE, IF THERE HAD BEEN ANY NEW DEVELOPMENTS ON PROPOSED
ALUMINUM COMPENSATION PROJECTS.

B. TSUKANOV IMMEDIATELY REPOSED THAT KAISER SHOULD BE ADVISED
TO TAKE SERIOUSLY SOVIET INVITATION TO BID ON SO-CALLED
"PECHINEY PROJECT", WHICH WOULD PRODUCE ALUMINA FOR GUINEAN
BAUXITE AT NIKOLAYEV ON BLACK SEA AND ALUMINUM NEAR BRATSK/
KRASNOYARSK. COMOFF POINTED TO DEPUTY MINISTER
SUSHKOV'S STATEMENT TO HOLBROOK (REFTEL) THAT PECHINEY HAD
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PAGE 02 MOSCOW 05783 251348Z

INSIDE TRACEK ON THIS PROJECT, BUT TSUKANOV REPEATED AND

EMPHASIZED THAT COMPETITION WAS "WIDE OPEN." HE CONFIRMED THAT WHITE SEA/KRASNOYARSK PROJECT WOULD BE DELAYED UNTIL END OF NEXT FIVE YEAR PLAN SINCE GOSPLAN COULD NOT ALLOCATED SUFFICIENT RESOURCES TO PROCEED WITH BOTH SIMULTANEOUSLY. IT WAS REGRETABLE, HE SAID, THAT MINISTRY OF NON-FERROUS METALLURGY HAD LINKED KAISER WITH THIS LATTER PROJECT AND PECHINEY WITH BLACK SEA/BRATSK-KRASNOYARSK PROJECT DURING TECHNICAL DISCUSSIONS AS SUCH PREMATURE ALLOCATION CONTRARY TO MFT POLICY. TSUKANOV ALSO AGREED THAT DEPUTY MINISTER ALKHIMOV'S STATEMENT AT JOINT COMMERCIAL COMMISSION REGARDING PROJECT (PARA 13, MOSCOW 5117 NOTAL) DID NOT MAKE SENSE.

2. COMMENT: EMBASSY HAS RECEIVED INDICATIONS FROM FRENCH SOURCES HERE THAT GOF IS HAVING TROUBLE CONVINCING EC PARTNERS TO RELAX ALUMINUM QUOTA TO PERMIT IMPORTATION OF COMPENSATORY END-PRODUCT FROM A PECHINEY PLAN IN USSR. THIS COULD BE REASON FOR NEW "WIDE-OPENESS" OF COMPETITION FOR "PECHINEY PROJECT." ANY COMMENTS FROM EMBASSY PARIS OF USEC WOULD BE APPRECIATED. STOESEL

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